

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /115 W
----- 049396

R 231530Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5655

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NI

SUBJECT: TARKA AFFAIR LOSING STEAM

REF: LAGOS 7629; KADUNA 0586

SUMMARY: OVER PAST WEEK, FMG EFFORTS DEFUSE TARKA
AFFAIR APPEAR TO BE BEARING SOME FRUIT. END SUMMARY

1. BALANCING SEIZURE IN KADUNA OF BOOK BY SIDI ALI
DEFENDING TARKA (REFTEL), POLICE IN IBADAN ON
AUGUST 16 CONFISCATED COPIES OF TRACT URGING FURTHER
PROBE OF TARKA AND SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED BOTH ITS
AUTHOR AND SKETCH NEWS EDITOR FOR QUESTIONING.
LATTER WAS HELD OVERNIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH COLUMN
WHICH REPRINTED ANTI-YORUBA LETTER FROM NORTHERN
MEMBER NAF AND REPLIED WITH ACADEMIC DEFENSE OF YORUBA
TRIBE. DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS PROVOKED PRESS PROTESTS
BUT POLICE OFFERED LITTLE BY WAY OF PUBLIC EXPLANATION FOR
THEIR ACTION.

2. AS REPORTED KADUNA REFTTEL, THESE PRESSURES COINCIDED WITH
EVIDENT YORUBA REALIZATION THAT ATTACKS ON TARKA WERE
SERVING LARGELY TO ENHANCE HIS STATURE IN NORTH, WITH RESULT
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THAT AT LEAST PART OF PRESS EASED OFF ITS SPECIFIC ANTI-

TARKA CAMPAIGN. LATER IN WEEK NEWS OF FORCED RETIREMENT OF BRIGADIERS ADEKUNLE AND SOTOMI (SEPTTEL) TOOK FURTHER STEAM OUT OF YORUBA PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TARKA, SINCE CALL FOR FURTHER PROBE OF TARKA FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION COULD IMPLY SIMILAR INVESTIGATION OF RETIRED BRIGADIERS. BROADENING BY DABOH OF HIS OWN ANTI-CORRUPTION CRUSADE AT AUGUST 22 PRESS CONFERENCE FURTHER DIFFUSED ATTENTION HERETOFORE FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON TARKA.

3. COMMENT: WHILE SOME OF IMMEDIATE HEAT HAS GONE OUT OF TARKA AFFAIR, EXTENT TO WHICH YORUBA PRESS WILLING PUSH ISSUE OF THIS KIND APPEARS SYMPTOMATIC OF INCREASING FRUSTRATION IN WEST OVER CENSUS RESULTS AND GROWING SENSE OF ISOLATION IN THEIR CONFRONTATION WITH NORTH. THUS, "TARKA AFFAIR" WILL DOUBTLESS REMAIN ALIVE AS PROBLEM FOR FMG AND SOURCE OF SECTIONAL CONTROVERSY DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S BEST EFFORTS TO ASSAUGE EMOTIONS IT HAS AROUSED.
STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, NI, (TARKA, JOSEPH)
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